Translation:
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Edits:
Unrequited

Chapter 21

ARE YOU LISTENING, PRINCE NEELAM?
PLEASE PULL OUT ONLY
ONE FLOWER PETAL FROM INSIDE THIS JAR.
THE WOMAN WEARING THE SAME COLOR FLOWER
WILL HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO WAIT UPON YOU IN YOUR CHAMBERS THIS EVENING.
There!

OH, MY! PRINCE NEELAM,
I'M SO HAPPY
WE'RE REDO-ING IT,
OLD WOMAN!

GOOD-NESS!
IT HAS TO BE A WOMAN WITH A WARM BODY!
HER FINGERS ARE COLD!
OH, DOES SHE NOT PLEASE YOU?
WELL... DESPITE BEING MY CHILD,
YOU'RE QUITE THE TYRANT
NOT TO MEN-TION,
THAT ONE
REFUSES TO GO BACK TO HIS ROOM ALONE AT NIGHT BECAUSE HE'S AFRAID THAT GHOSTS WILL COME OUT.
Hey!
Hey!

..NEE-LAM
..MA-YA,
MOTHER!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...
GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF COMING TO THIS PLACE!
IF YOU HAD CALLED FOR ME, I WOULD HAVE COME TO YOUR ROOM!
OH! BUT THE EMPEROR WAS KIND ENOUGH TO PUT AN END TO PURDAH* IN THE ROYAL PALACE

*THE HINDU AND MUSLIM PRACTICE OF KEEPING WOMEN FROM THE SIGHT OF OTHERS.

SO MY WILLFULNESS MUST BE FORGIVEN AS WELL
BE-SIDES...
MY MOTHER?
PADMA'S MOTHER, LADY KRISHNA... THE FIRST-RANKING WIFE ISN'T FEELING VERY WELL RIGHT NOW
WHY DON'T WE LET HER HAVE SOME PEACE?
PAD-MA
SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO VISIT HER FOR A WHILE EITHER...

I'VE GONE TO HER ROOM A NUMBER OF TIMES TO SEE HER BUT
SHE'S EITHER NOT FEELING WELL OR
IT'S A BAD DAY ACCORDING TO THE STARS,
SO IT HASN'T WORKED OUT...
HUH?
IS SHE STUPID?
SHE WON'T SEE HER SON BECAUSE HER HOROSCOPE HAD A BAD SIGN IN IT?
DON'T SAY THAT
MY MOTHER IS... A PERSON WHO RESPECTS TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS MORE THAN MOST OTHERS
Ridicu-lous!
IN THIS DAY AND AGE WHEN WE'VE PASSED INTO A NEW CENTURY
PRINCE PADMA!
THE CHILDREN FROM THE TOWN ARE FOLLOWING THE CAR, IT'S DANGEROUS, WHAT SHOULD I...
STOP THE CAR
PADMA!?

IN THIS DAY AND AGE,
RIGHT?
WHAT IS THE CROWN PRINCE DOING WITH THESE PEASANTS...!?
NEELAM
GET THE CANDY
YOU HAVE A VERY KIND BIG BROTHER, DON'T YOU,
Hmph
NEELAM?
PADMA!
NEELAM
LET'S PLAY HIDE AND SEEK IN THE PALACE GARDEN!

YOU AND LADY MAYA GET ALONG SO WELL I'M JEALOUS
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS~
ENOUGH, NEELAM!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF! SHE'S MY MAYA!
WA-AH, PRINCE PADMA!
STUPID! SHE'S A MAHARANI!
Ahh
WHAT'S A MA RANI?

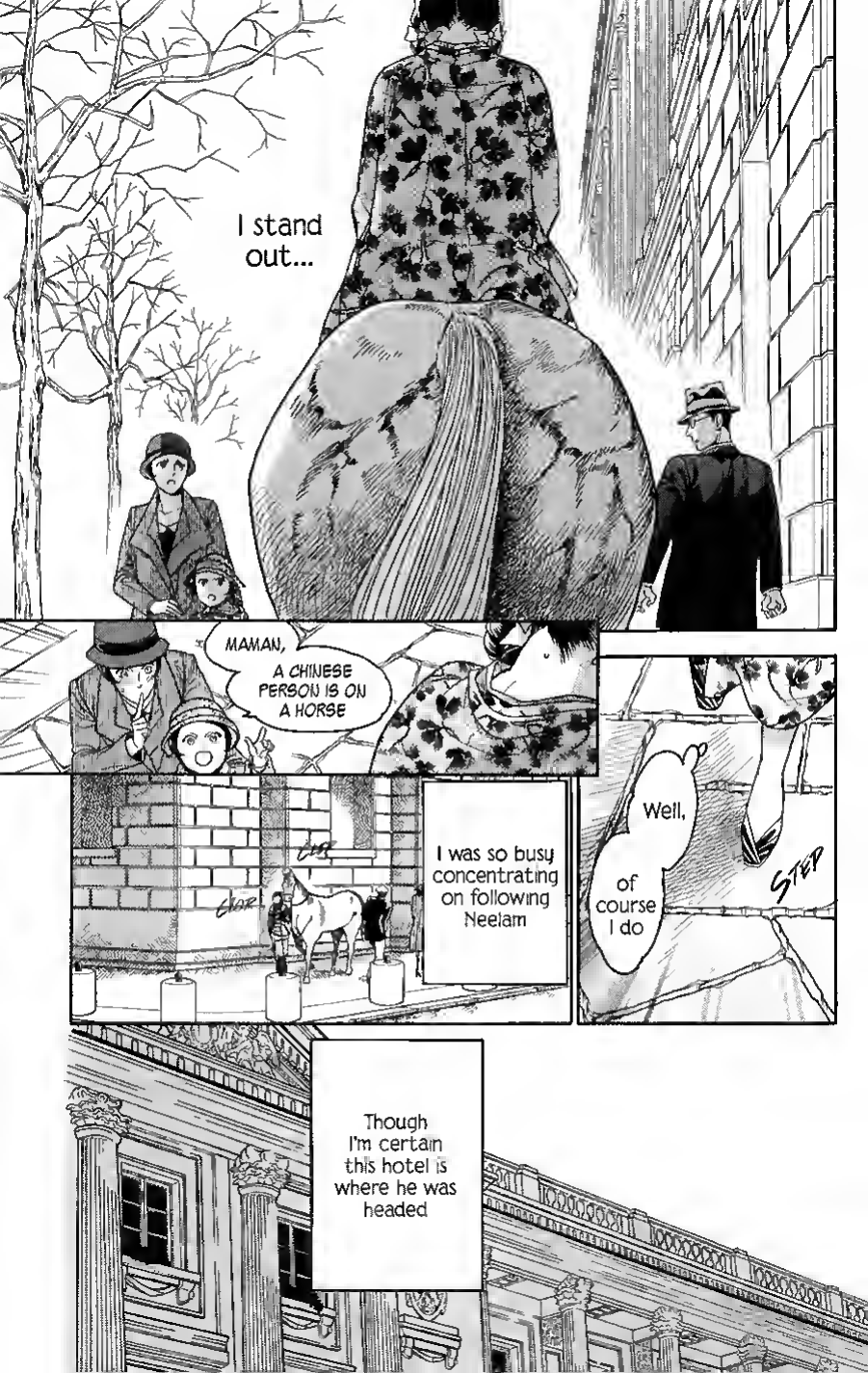
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF...
HE'S MY PADMA...
MY BIG BROTHER!
So it's okay, right?
You don't need to have

that desolate look in your eyes

Scoot!!!
Roll
HEY. A PERSON WOULDN'T NORMALLY SLEEP AT THIS POINT!

THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYONE IN THIS ROOM BUT A CHILD
SINCE I'M STILL ALIVE,
THERE HAS TO BE SOME REASON I COULDN'T BE KILLED RIGHT AWAY, CORRECT?
OH, PIPE DOWN
Getting caught was foolish but
YOU CAN JUST KEEP WATCH. I'LL BE THINKING OF A WAY TO ESCAPE
DON'T BOTHER ME.
Where did that woman go?
YOU'RE WEIRD

Does she plan to let Padma run away somewhere first?
Is her only helper right now this little girl?
...That dream was from a long time ago
...As
As I expected
Clomp-


I stand out...
MAMAN, A CHINESE PERSON IS ON A HORSE
I was so busy concentrating on following Neelam
Well, of course I do
STEP
Though I'm certain this hotel is where he was headed

Someone from the other side
At any rate, I have to find some place that can take this fellow
I can't go inside like this
I'm so conspicu-ous
could spot me.... ah
Oh
I can't believe I ran into them at a time like this
THE PRINCE STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND?!
She said "Prince"...

はっ
Gasp
STAY QUIET
DON'T CRY OUT—
THIS WAY—

BEFORE THEY FIND US
Wha-?
COME ON!
WHERE
THIS IS THE HOTEL'S EMPLOYEE ENTRANCE.
OH...
SHE SAYS YOUR HORSE CAN BE KEPT AT A NEARBY BARN

YOU'RE NEELAM'S
BROTH-ER..
COME WITH ME.
IF YOU'RE HERE, THAT MUST MEAN NEELAM IS NEARBY AS WELL, RIGHT?
I'LL HELP YOU GET AWAY,
SO I WANT YOU TO STAY HIDDEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE
!
AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S A RISK OF BEING SPOTTED RIGHT NOW IN THE AREA AROUND THE HOTEL
WAS THAT..
BY ANY CHANCE, WERE THEY LOOKING FOR YOU...? WHY?
WELL..
I WANTED TO EAT SOME FAMILLE CHOCOLATE .
EXCUSE ME
?

Heh heh
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I SNUCK OUT OF THE HOTEL...
This person...
His demeanor is a bit different than it was last time
A drug addict
SO, WHERE IS NEELAM?
Most likely, he's in his right mind at the moment.
But...
It's like he's become somone else

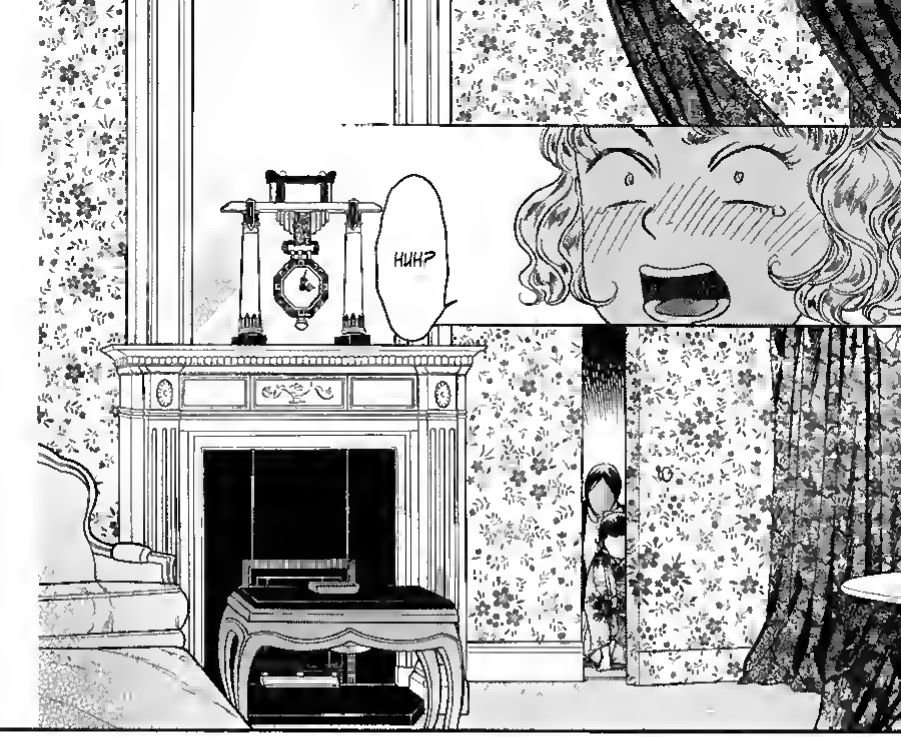
WELL, YOU SEE...
Achoo!
THE HEATING SHOULD MAKE IT WARM SOON.
WHY DON'T YOU LIGHT A FIRE?
SHE TOLD ME NOT TO TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU

ARE YOU AND THAT WOMAN SISTERS?
Ah ha ha!
NO WAY!
I'M JUST A STREET URCHIN!
I WAS CAUGHT STEALING A BAG AT LAZARE STATION
JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO BE CAUGHT BY THE POLICE, PRINCE PADMA SAVED ME

YOU WERE KEEPING WATCH OUT IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL ?
SO THAT'S WHY
EVER SINCE THEN, THAT LADY GIVES ME JOBS TO DO
ONCE IN A WHILE
RI
Achoo!
Hah~
THEY TOLD ME IF I WAS GOING TO BE AROUND PRINCE PADMA I HAD TO TAKE A BATH . AFTER I WASHED THE GRIME OFF IT WAS SO COLD!
.....
WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?
COME HERE GIGI,
GIGI
?

Wha...?
THE ROPE TYING MY HANDS BEHIND MY BACK IS DIGGING IN AND HURTS LIKE HLL
LOOSEN IT A LITTLE
HOW STUPID...
I'LL START YELLING!
I KNOW THE MANAGER HERE!
inhale
Ah!
Ah! All right already!
HUH?

Aah!
Stab
The rope is...
Bomp
Flinch
SILLY FOOL!
.....?
YOU'RE ALMOST FROZEN TO DEATH...
YOU'RE


HUH?

Shh
WEE..
HEH HEH,
HE'S BECOME
EXTREMELY KIND ALL OF A SUDDEN...

BUT...
PROUD AND... WILLFUL
NEE-LAM IS...
I SEE
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A KIND PERSON.
ENOUGH?
UM, I THINK THAT'S...

I INTENDED TO TIE YOU UP WITH THIS AND GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT AWAY
UNTYING A ROPE IS EASY
WHEW
Tighten
IT'S MARIKO'S FAULT
WHO'S THAT?
MARI . KO,

A WOMAN WHO FORGIVES BETRAYAL
WHILE IN TEARS
WHAT'S
THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS SITUATION RIGHT NOW...?
WELL, YOU SEE, I
AM THE YOUNGER BROTHER, WHO'S COME TO KILL PRINCE PADMA,
WHO BETRAYED ME

THAT MURDEROUS INTENT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY THROWN OFF BY MARIKO
IT'S REALLY A BOTHER SO I LEFT HER BEHIND
But even so
The mo-ment I touched them
Those cold fingers
.....?
AND?
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH
WARMING MY HANDS?

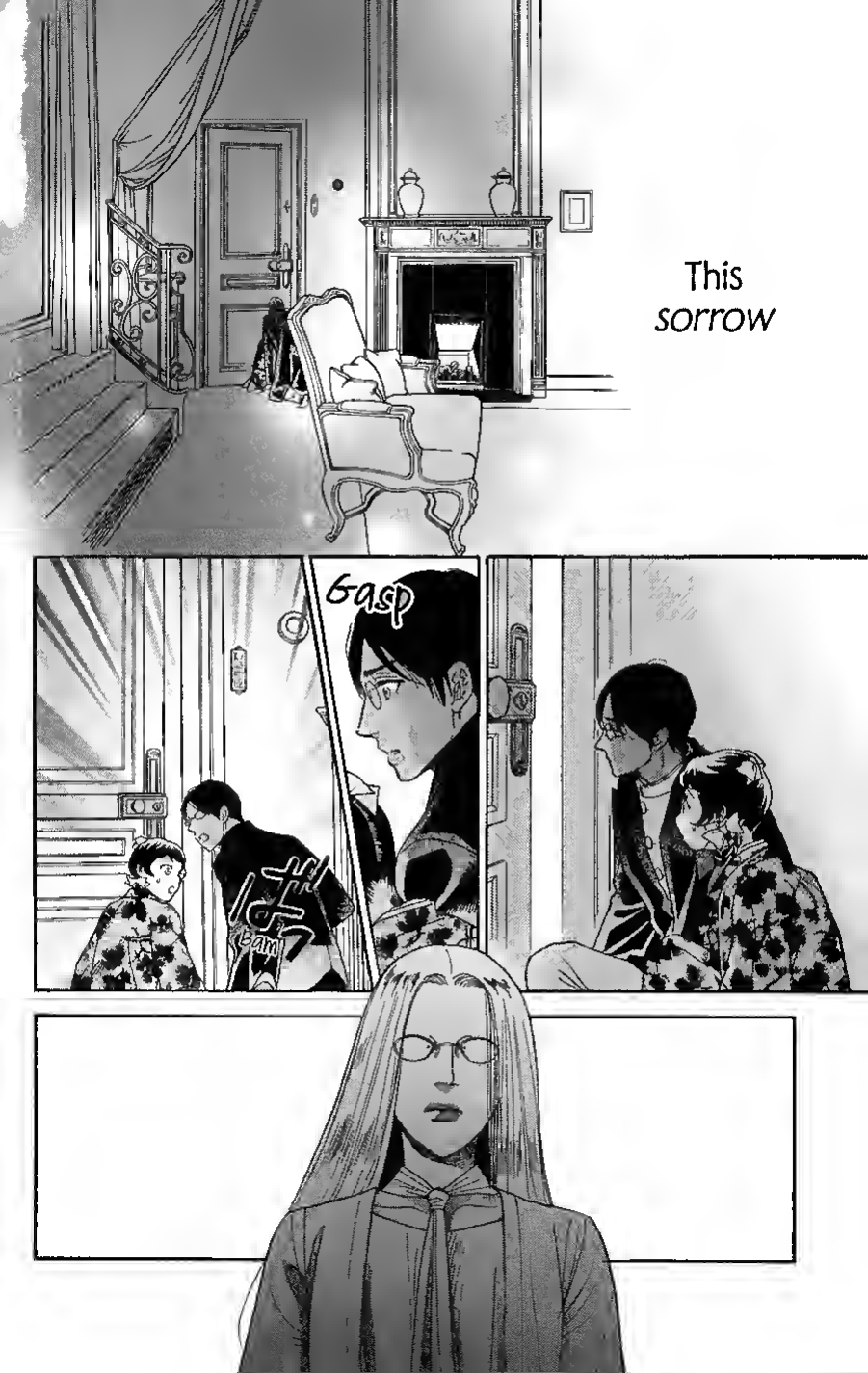
It occurred to me
HEY
It was strange
How is she able to forgive?
Doesn't she feel angry?
Doesn't she feel bitter?
Having gone through her heart being betrayed, why?

She makes me unsure

EVEN THOUGH SHE GETS IN MY WAY
MARIKO
AND HATRED ALONE IS ENOUGH
DON'T MAKE ME UNSURE
MARIKO

To me you are
DID HAVING MARIKO
WITH YOU
MAKE YOU AFRAID?

"Why won't you look me in the eyes?"
Hatred alone is enough
Don't remind me
I can't think about it


This
sorrow
Gasp
Bam